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Although so many insectivorous animals in confinement disregarded the special defence of *Formica rufa*, there can be little doubt that such defence is very effective in the wild state. It is impossible on any other hypothesis to account for the conditions under which the species exists—swarming in vast numbers in restricted areas and an easy prey to any enemy that would dare to attack.

A very important conclusion is suggested by several of the experiments recorded in this memoir, namely, that the tastes of mammals and birds are widely different. The author points out that the defence of the ground-beetles appealed more strongly to the mammals than to the birds, but it was also apparent in many of the experiments that the unpalatability of conspicuous Lepidoptera was, conversely, far more obvious to the birds than to the mammals. In view of the part which birds are believed to play in the production of mimetic resemblance, it is obvious that this inference may be highly significant.

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#### ADDENDUM.

DR. P. CHALMERS MITCHELL'S Memoir "On Longevity and Relative Viability in Mammals and Birds," P. Z. S. 1911, p. 425.

[The Rev. F. C. R. JOURDAIN has kindly called my attention to the fact that I have overlooked a valuable paper "On the Duration of Life of the Animals in the Zoological Garden at Frankfort-on-the-Main," by Director Dr. MAX SCHMIDT, P. Z. S. 1880, p. 299, and containing many valuable figures as to longevity].—*P. C. M.*, Aug. 2, 1911.